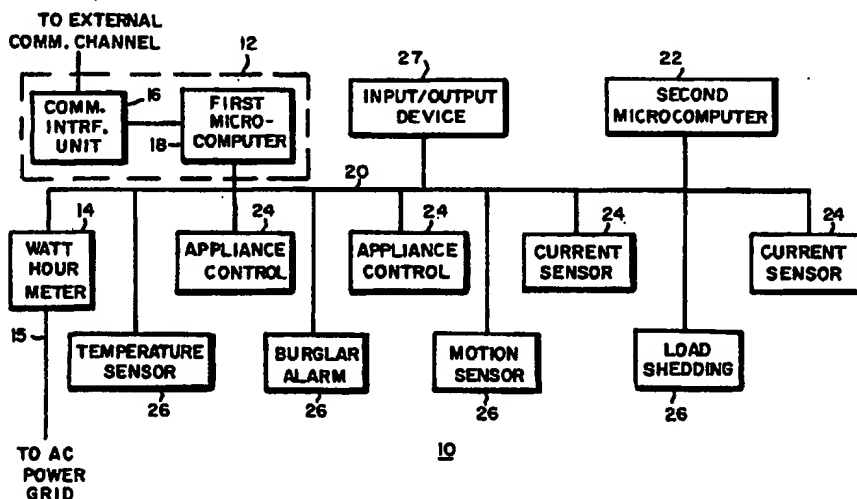




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(54) Title: ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND BUILDING AUTOMATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

An energy management and building automation system including a local area network or home automation data bus. Each load to be controlled is connected to the bus via a control module. A first microcomputer preferably is placed externally to the customer premises, adjacent the electric utility power meter. A second microcomputer preferably is placed inside the customer premises. The two microcomputers communicate with each other and with the various load control modules. The first microcomputer communicates with the utility company via any appropriate communications link. The second microcomputer serves, in part, as an input/output terminal for the system, allowing the customer to set parameters and query the system as to historical and current energy and power usage information by individual loads or by the entire customer premises. It displays reports requested by the customer, relative to current and historical energy consumption by individual loads and/or the premises and also displays messages transmitted by the utility company and by either microcomputer. The first microcomputer acts as a master controller and/or network server, communicating with the world outside the premises and being the primary data collectors and operator of load control modules, with the second microcomputer providing certain backup and input/output (e.g., events scheduling and report generation) functions.

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